

Serial No. 09/816,016

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Examiner: Valenti, Andrea M.

In the Claims:

1 - 49 (Canceled)

50. (New) A selective bird feeder, comprising:

a selective housing including a cylindrical sidewall having respective upper and lower peripheral edges, said cylindrical sidewall having means defining multiple apertures;

a cylindrical seed holder contained coaxially within and spaced apart from the cylindrical sidewall of the selective housing;

said seed holder including a base, a peripheral top edge and a cylindrical seed housing that together define a compartment for bird seed;

the diameter of said selective housing being greater than the diameter of said seed holder housing so as to provide a sufficient space therebetween to allow the selected birds to enter and move freely therein;

a base having an apertured center area for supporting the seed holder base and a peripheral flange for supporting the lower peripheral edge of said selective housing cylindrical sidewall;

a cover separate from and supported at least on the upper peripheral edge of the cylindrical sidewall of the selective housing;

said cover including a lower peripheral edge and an upper edge defining a centrally disposed aperture for receiving therethrough the peripheral top edge of said seed holder seed housing when the cover is positioned on the cylindrical sidewall of the selective housing;

the diameter of the lower peripheral edge of the cover being greater than the diameter of the cylindrical sidewall of the selective housing so that the lower peripheral edge of the cover extends beyond the cylindrical sidewall;

the lower peripheral edge of the cover further disposed at a location below the top edge of the cylindrical sidewall when the cover is so disposed on the cylindrical sidewall;

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a seed holder cap engaging and closing the peripheral top edge of the cylindrical seed holder;

a hanger attached to the seed holder and for also supporting the seed holder cap to enable the cap to be slid therealong to provide access to the seed holder housing;

a clamp separate from said hanger disposed between said cover and seed holder cap to prevent removal of said cover;

said clamp comprising an annular member that is secured about the seed holder cylindrical housing; and

a fastening member constructed and arranged to removably secure the base of the selective housing to the base of the seed holder;

said fastening member comprising a threaded plug that is adapted to removably connect, through the centrally disposed aperture in said base, to the base of said seed holder.

51. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50, wherein the space between the selective housing and the seed holder is about 1.0 inches.

52. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50, wherein the space between the selective housing and the seed holder is about 1.5 inches.

53. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50, wherein the space between the selective housing and the seed holder is at least 2.0 inches.

54. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50 including locator tabs on the interior surface of the cover to assist with the positioning of the cover on the selective housing.

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55. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50, wherein the top is substantially dome-shaped, and the peripheral lower edge of the cover extends below the peripheral top edge of the selective housing by about the size of one of the multiple apertures in the cylindrical sidewall of the selective housing.

56. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50 wherein said clamp comprises a spring clip.

57. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50 wherein the base of said seed holder has an internally threaded female member adapted to threadedly engage with a male threaded plug.

58. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50 wherein said cover, adjacent the lower peripheral edge thereof, rests upon the upper edge of said selective housing, whereby upon removal of said threaded plug said selective housing readily disengage with said cover to enable removal of the selective housing.

59. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 58 wherein the only support between the upper edge of said selective housing and the cover is by virtue of the resting engagement therebetween.

60. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50 wherein the lower peripheral edge of the selective housing cylindrical sidewall rest against the outer surface of the base flange.

61. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50 wherein the base of the seed holder is disposed in a flat plane and includes an upright middle collar that is internally threaded for engagement with the threaded plug.

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62. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 61 wherein the apertured center area of the base is constructed and arranged in a flat plane so as to receive the flat base of the seed holder.

63. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50 including at least one perch supported by said cylindrical seed housing.

64. (New) The selective bird feeder of claim 50 wherein the multiple apertures are each of a width ranging from about 1.3 inches to about 1.7 inches.